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TALL ORDER
CELL TOWER WON'T BE WELCOMED BY RESIDENTS {page 4}



YOUTH MOVEMENT
BLUE-LINER BACK HOME
{page 20}

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PM. Visit



▶ Prime Minister Stephen Harper, shown in Edmonton last week, will be in Halifax on Thursday morning where is he expected to announce his government has finished contract talks with the Irving Shipyard in the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy. Story, page 3.

JOHN ULAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper in Halifax today

Council inquiries will be answered

Councillors vote to look into how sale of St. Patrick's-Alexandra School took place Daycare centre operating inside the school may now have its lease extended instead of an eviction



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

Over the past few weeks councillors threw a multitude of questions at HRM staff regarding the process involved in selling St. Patrick's-Alexandra school. But they got silence in return.

It was an issue that upset several of them during Tuesday night's marathon meeting.

"As a councillor, I find this very, very troubling," Coun. Jennifer Watts said during the near-seven-hour session.

That night, council voted to take back their earlier decision to sell the property to Jono Developments Ltd., and put the sale on hold until a staff report looking into the process could be completed.

Richard Butts, HRM's chief administrative officer, wouldn't take media requests about the issue on Wednesday, but released a statement.

Meeting cancelled

There will be no fireworks at city hall next week: the regular Tuesday council meeting has been cancelled because of a light agenda.

He said council voted to proceed with the sale on Dec. 13, so staff couldn't comment on it past that date.

"We cannot provide information on an individual basis to councillors that could be seen to draw into question the direction of council," he said in his statement.

"Now that we have further direction from council we can proceed with fulfilling that request."

Watts said she was told staff couldn't answer her questions because it would look like staff was interpreting council-directed policy.

"I'm not interested in their interpretation of policy.… I was asking for someone to lay out the steps of how this happened over the past year and how we got here," she said Wednesday.

"We want to have factual information on what happened and that's what we weren't getting."

She said it may be a matter for HRM's auditor general to look into.

"The auditor general should be looking carefully at that report. This is something we need to pay close attention to," she said.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶ Richard Butts

More coverage {page 2}

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

1 news

Struggle ahead for Dartmouth firm

Missing out on a contract to supply telephone and e-voting to HRM is a one-two punch for a Dartmouth company.

Burnside-based Intelivote Systems Inc. lost the HRM contract by three points to the Spanish company Scytl Secure Electronic Voting. Council voted to award the contract to Scytl on Tuesday night.

Intelivote president Dean Smith said on Wednesday losing the contract threatens the company's survival because of the financial loss and also the hit to its reputation if it doesn't have the contract in its own backyard.

12
The number of people working at Intelivote.

"This not only impacts our bottom line, I don't know if the company can survive," he said, adding he didn't agree with HRM's point system for awarding contracts.

"We know now one of our investors that was thinking about investing is not going to now because we didn't win."

Intelivote won the previous 42-month long contract, providing services for two HRM elections. But price had something to do with winning the current contract: Scytl's bid came in about $330,000 less. Smith said they charged the same amount they did four years ago, and came in under HRM's budget.

He said Scytl is throwing in low bids to scoop up business in Canada, where the firm is trying to enter the marketplace.

Susan Crutchlow, general manager in Scytl's Oakville, Ont., office said that's not the case.

"We look to secure references, and we're creative in doing that, but we will be competitive with all the other vendors out there," she said.

She said Scytl's experience in the world marketplace and its product allow the firm to offer the service "cost-effectively."

JENNIFER TAPLIN

Tide turning at city hall: Coun.

Tues. session ends with plenty of emotion on school sale issue


RYAN TAPLIN/METRO
▶ Coun. Jackie Barkhouse


RYAN TAPLIN/METRO FILE
▶ Halifax regional councillors are seen in this file photo from July inside city hall chambers.

JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

Halifax regional council emerged from its Tuesday-night pressure cooker as something new, says Coun. Jackie Barkhouse.

"I have never felt that in the room what happened (Tuesday) night," she said Wednesday. "I feel like something changed at city hall."

After five hours on a lengthy council agenda on Tuesday, an emotional and loud debate broke out on going in-camera to debate putting off the sale of St. Patrick's-Alexandra School.

Councillors were told the sale was within days of being complete and if they put off the matter it would be over. There was frustration around council chambers and in the gallery, where community members had waited all night to hear council discuss the issue.

Mayor Peter Kelly warned the crowd several times to keep quiet, even threatening once to clear the chamber.

In an emotional outburst to her colleagues on Tuesday, Barkhouse said she felt she's been pushed into a corner so many times that she feels she has to push back so hard "people will be going through a window."

Speaking about the comment the next day, Barkhouse wouldn't say specifically who she was referring to.

"I believe the people who I was directing it to knew who I was talking about and we'll leave it at that."

But she said councillors can now get from staff the school-sale-related answers that they need.

"I feel that we literally shook the walls of city hall (Tuesday) night," she said.

"There's no turning back now. It's full speed ahead."

A dispute over buggy safety has made scofflaws of Kentucky's Amish, and some could face jail time. Scan the code for the story

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Denver Nuggets mascot summons some Tim Tebow mystique for a half-court shot. Watch at metronews.ca/video

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Calder loses her appeal in drug-smuggling case

Nova Scotia's highest court has dismissed an appeal filed by a former Crown attorney convicted of smuggling drugs into the Central Nova Correctional Facility in Burnside.

Anne Calder's lawyer had argued the judge who convicted his client misunderstood the evidence of a psychiatrist who diagnosed Calder with a depressive disorder and a personality disorder.


▶ Anne Calder

But the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal, in a unanimous decision released on Wednesday, says any evidence misapprehended by the judge was not crucial to the case.

The three-member panel of justices also found the trial judge did not make errors in reaching his verdicts, and he did not offer an unfit sentence.

Last June, Nova Scotia Supreme Court Judge Kevin Coady sentenced Calder to 30 months in prison on three drug charges.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

Winter storm expected to hit Halifax

DRIVING. It could be a messy commute home for motorists on Thursday.

A winter storm could drop about 10 centimetres of snow on the Halifax region by later tonight, with the white stuff set to begin late in the afternoon.

PHILIP CROUCHER

Lobster-price activists talk tactics

DRIVING. Members of a newly formed lobster fishermen's group in southwestern Nova Scotia say they may tie up their boats to get better lobster prices.

Nearly 300 people who packed the Grand Hotel in Yarmouth on Wednesday agreed not to sell their lobsters for less than $5.50 a pound.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶ Halifax shipbuilders work on a navy ship in this file photo from October.

Prime Minister to visit Irving Shipyard

Harper will appear at 9 a.m. Thursday for photo op, announcement He isn't taking questions from media



ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

Prime Minister Stephen Harper will visit Halifax's Irving Shipbuilding and Vancouver's Seaspan Marine on Thursday.

Harper is expected to announce the federal government and the two yards have finished contract talks on the single largest military procurement program in Canadian history.

Both Irving and Seaspan won part of the $35 billion National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy in October. Irving took the largest of three NSPS contracts, winning the right to build $25 billion worth of warships, while Seaspan took the smaller, non-combat vessel contract.

Negotiations have been ongoing since the contracts were awarded on Oct. 19.

The provincial government has refused to disclose how much support it intends to give Irving Shipbuilding in improving their yard for the massive contract until after negotiations have finished.

A spokeswoman for Premier Darrell Dexter said Wednesday that the investment won't likely be disclosed any time soon — as they'll just see the details of the contract for the first time on Thursday.

"It's not going to be (Thursday), because we don't know the details of the agreement yet," Jennifer Stewart said.

"I highly doubt we're going to be doing anything the same day."

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

ACOA extends EduNova funding

An initiative aimed at attracting international students to Nova Scotian post-secondary institutions received $185,000 from the federal government on Wednesday.

Bernard Valcourt, the minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, announced the feds are extending funding to EduNova for a second year.

215K The dollar amount EduNova received from ACOA last year.

"Our education sector is one we can boast (about) throughout the world," Valcourt told reporters.

"(EduNova is) on the world stage selling the education potential of Nova Scotia to the whole world. I think this is great."

EduNova is a partnership of around 20 institutions, including universities, private education centres, and private sector groups. It aims to increase the educational and economic benefits of bringing international students to study in the province.

Once they get here, international students pay over $7,000 more than Canadians in tuition per year. Valcourt said that amount is still competitive, when compared to the United States and Europe.

ALEX BOUTILIER



AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

Province defends fire-safety record

The province is challenging the auditor general's assertion that public safety had been compromised for years because fire inspections weren't being carried out at some schools, hospitals and other buildings.

The labour department's acting deputy minister told a legislative committee on Wednesday that inspections were being done, but they weren't being recorded.

Jeff Conrad said six of the 25 points in auditor general Jacques Lapointe's report in May have been dealt with, and it will take up to two years to respond to the others. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Adding seats not an option: Dodds

An upcoming electoral-boundary review in Nova Scotia must reckon with population shifts into urban areas as well as communities of interest, Colin Dodds says.

Dodds, who is president of Saint Mary's University, served as the chair of the last boundary-review commission in 2002, which recommended the province re-examine the four "protected" Acadian and African Nova Scotian ridings in 10 years. Now, Dodds is vice-chairman of the commission tasked with just that.

"There's been shifts in the school population, shifts in the overall population. There's been a drift to the urban areas," Dodds said Wednesday. "I come back to this fundamental-democracy side of things, with, you know, how much does my vote count?"

Voters in Argyle, Clare, Richmond and Preston were protected in the 1992 review, and have significantly fewer electors than the provincial average.

But the terms of reference for this commission require the number of electors in each riding to be within 25 per cent of the provincial average. That has drawn the ire of Acadian groups and the opposition, who say the variance will destroy those cultural and linguistic minority seats.

ALEX BOUTILIER

Not in my backyard, residents say of tower

A public meeting to discuss the proposed cellphone tower is scheduled for Thursday at 7 p.m. at Highland Park Junior High School



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶ North End Coun. Jerry Blumenthal supports residents opposed to the building of a 30-metre cellphone monopole behind the Halifax Water tower, looming behind him, on Robie Street.

Residents of north-end Halifax are not rolling out the welcome wagon for a proposed new neighbour: A 30-metre-tall cellphone tower.

Bell Mobility applied to Industry Canada to put up a monopole structure with an equipment shelter all enclosed by a steel-wire fence behind the Halifax Water tower at 3468 Robie St., facing Prescott Street. The area is zoned for residential use, and Erin Poirier's property borders the water tower.

"The biggest thing for us is ... that's community green space that will no longer be community green space if there's a 30-metre cell tower on it with an enclosing fence," Poirier said.

The grassy space is where families play Frisbee or football on the weekend, she added.

"And it's right across the street from Highland Park Junior High School, which doesn't have a huge property for an outdoor playground," she said.

There's a meeting at the school on Thursday night, and residents can talk about the project with Dali Salih, HRM planner, and a representative from Bell.

But it's not up to HRM to decide if the tower is built.

Salih said staff will take public input and write a report for the Peninsula Community Council, who will make a recommendation to Industry Canada. Salih said she expects Ottawa to make the final decision in four to five months.

"I don't like it and my residents don't like it," area Coun. Jerry Blumenthal said. "I think there's a lot of radiation that's given off of those towers."



Gunfire incidents unrelated: Police

But shootings likely not 'random': Spokesman

Halifax Regional Police say two shootings on Tuesday night aren't connected to one another.

Just before 9:30 p.m., police were called to Churchill Court in Dartmouth after receiving reports of several shots being fired.

About 20 minutes later, police were contacted by hospital staff that two men in their 20s showed up with gunshot wounds that aren't considered life-threatening.

About three hours later, police received a call of more gunfire in the 200 block of Ross Street in Clayton Park.

Police say that when officers arrived two unoccupied vehicles at an apartment complex had bullet holes in them.

"Neither incident is believed to be random at this point," said Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter. "Based on our investigation ... with the people involved, there's nothing to suggest a connection between them."

In the first shooting, police found several bullet casings in a parking lot, and say the victims drove themselves to hospital as a vehicle was found outside with smashed windows.

PHILIP CROUCHER

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶ A police car sits in front on an apartment building at 196 Ross St. on Wednesday morning.

Armed standoff ends in surrender

A police standoff with a man barricaded in his home near Truro ended peacefully on Wednesday.

An RCMP news release says crisis negotiators convinced the man to surrender to police at about 7:40 a.m. at the residence in Millbrook.

RCMP say shots were fired outside the residence on Tower Road, but nobody was injured.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canada to assist Haitian relocation

Ottawa providing $19.9M to finance resettlement of camp dwellers, create 2,000 jobs for removing debris

DIEU NALIO CHERY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ A youth walks inside the earthquake-damaged cathedral in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Jan. 7.

One of the most visible symbols of Haiti's earthquake will soon be dismantled as officials relocate nearly 20,000 people from a tent camp outside the collapsed National Palace, the government said Wednesday.

President Michel Martelly said Canada would help move the residents from the Champ de Mars plaza to new homes north of the capital. He said the operation would begin in six weeks.

"You've been here for two years, suffering without talking, with the kids," Martelly told a crowd who applauded the news a day before the quake's second anniversary. "We are going to remove everyone from under the tents."

Beverley Oda, Minister of International Cooperation, said the project will also help train 50 Haitian entrepreneurs and create 2,000 jobs for removing debris and rebuilding and repairing homes.

The government is building 400 homes near the bay and 3,000 more at the bottom of a mountain also north of the capital to house the camp's residents.

The earthquake on Jan. 12, 2010, killed an estimated 300,000 people and displaced 1.5 million more. Officials say the number of people now without homes has dropped to about 550,000. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big fight over teensy frog and weensy fish

A frog that can perch on the tip of your pinkie with room to spare has been claimed as the world's smallest vertebrate, outtinying a fish that got the title in 2006.

However, a scientist who found another weensy fish disputes both claims.

An article Wednesday in the journal PLoS One named Paedophryne amauensis as the world's smallest animal with a spine. But a University of Washington scientist says a male anglerfish he found in 2006 is even smaller.

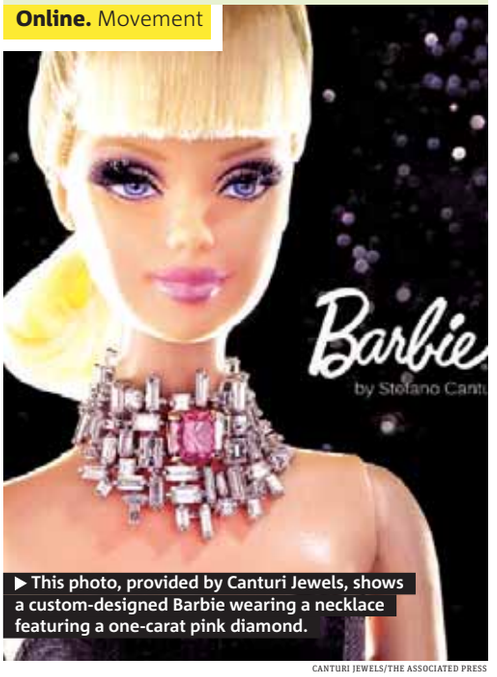
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HANDOUT/CHRISTOPHER AUSTIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ P. amanuensis

Online. Movement



▶ This photo, provided by Canturi Jewels, shows a custom-designed Barbie wearing a necklace featuring a one-carat pink diamond.

CANTURI JEWELS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Call for bald Barbie

There's an online movement to get Barbie to attempt what could be her biggest feat yet: Going bald to fight cancer. A Facebook page titled Beautiful and Bald Barbie! Let's see if we can get it made, was started a few days before Christmas. By Wednesday afternoon, the page had more than 15,000 fans. The goal is to get toy maker Mattel Inc. to create a bald Barbie in support of children with cancer.

Genocide accused's deportation delayed

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Leon Mugesera

UN to investigate claims that he will be tortured in Rwanda

After nearly two decades in Canada, a man accused of helping to incite the Rwandan genocide may have been granted one more reprieve that would delay deportation back to his homeland.

Leon Mugesera had been ordered to be deported early Wednesday when a Federal Court ruled against his last-ditch effort to stay in Canada, his home for the last 19 years.

But a pair of other developments, later in the day, complicated matters.

Mugesera's lawyer announced the United Nations Committee Against Torture has ordered Canada to keep him here while it investigates his claims he'd be tortured in Rwanda.

"Our fair legal system has determined that he is here illegally, he's guilty of serious war crimes, and that he has to face justice in his country of origin."
JASON KENNEY, IMMIGRATION MINISTER

Meanwhile, Mugesera was brought to hospital to be treated for an unspecified health issue. Television images showed him being carried out of his Quebec City home, laid out on a stretcher.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Presentation Schedule ...

MARITIME TRAVEL | 9TH ANNUAL VACATION SUPERSTORE

Saturday, January 14, 2012

Room I

10:50	"The Art of Touring in Style" with Insight Vacations
11:30	Nassau – Quick Getaways for 3 and 4 nights with Sunquest Vacations
12:10	Highlights of Melia Hotels International – Cuba
12:50	See the Extraordinary at Universal Orlando Resort and hear from Visit Orlando
1:30	Samana and the many sides of the D.R. with Air Canada Vacations!
2:10	Follow your Lucky Star… Iberostar Hotels & Resorts in Cuba and the Dominican Republic
2:50	Direct Departures to the Sun with Air Canada Vacations
3:30	Jamaica - Once you go, you know! by the Jamaica Tourist Board & Sunset Resorts

Room II

11:00	Amazing Thailand by the Tourism Authority of Thailand
11:40	A Snapshot of AMResorts
12:20	Discover the Caribbean with Sandals' Luxury Included® Resorts
1:00	Inside Cuba – The 4 destinations offered by Transat Holidays & Nolitours
1:40	Fun for all with Beaches Resorts!
2:20	The Dominican Republic – Featuring the "IT" Zone with Transat Holidays
3:00	Jamaica – Gran Bahia Principe and "Specialty Weeks" with Sunquest Vacations
3:40	Discover SeaWorld, Aquatica, Busch Gardens & Discovery Cove and hear from Visit Orlando

Room III

10:50	The Occidental Experience with Occidental Hotels & Resorts
11:30	Tour the Turks & Caicos – only with Air Canada Vacations!
12:10	Discover Cayo Santa Maria & Cayo Ensenachos with Hola Sun Holidays
12:50	Collette Vacations - Escorted Tours that allow you to see the world like never before
1:30	Experience Europe with Air Canada Vacations
2:10	Florida Private Pool Homes, Condos & Townhomes and Legoland, Orlando's newest attraction
2:50	The Best of Barbados
3:30	Live Like Royalty with Riu Hotels & Resorts

Room IV

10:40	Highlights of Melia Hotels International - Cuba
11:20	Trafalgar's Europe, Britain, North America and More! "See the World From the Inside"
12:00	The Dominican Republic – Featuring the "IT" Zone with Transat Holidays
12:40	Discover Europe and the World with Globus and Avalon Waterways
1:20	SuperClubs' Collection of Hotels & Resorts ~ Discover what they do best
2:00	Junkanoo In The Bahamas! With The Bahamas Tourist Office
2:40	Russia, Eastern Europe & more with Exotik Tours
3:20	Malaysia, Truly Asia with Tourism Malaysia

Room V

10:50	Modern Luxury with Celebrity Cruises
11:30	AmaWaterways - The most desired trend in travel with the most desirable river cruise line.
12:10	Uniworld's Boutique Luxury Cruising in Europe, Egypt & Russia
12:50	Exclusive Sailing on AmaCerto with EncoreCruises
1:30	Royal Caribbean International - Oasis Class, Deployment and What's New!
2:10	The World by Water – Cruising with Air Canada Vacations
2:50	Cruise the High Seas with Transat Holidays
3:30	Carnival Cruise Lines – A Million Ways to Have Fun!

Sunday, January 15, 2012

Room I

11:00	Punta Cana - Gran Bahia Principe Bavaro and "Specialty Weeks" with Sunquest Vacations
11:40	Discover Cayo Santa Maria & Cayo Ensenachos with Hola Sun Holidays
12:20	Cancun - Gran Bahia Principe Tulum and "Specialty Weeks" with Sunquest Vacations
1:00	Trips of a Lifetime – From Italy to Argentina… Discover the magic of our own Small Group Adventures
1:40	Jammin' in Jamaica with Transat Holidays
2:20	Discover Fabulous Fiji & New Zealand with Boomerang Tours
3:00	Jamaica - Once you go, you know! by the Jamaica Tourist Board & Sunset Resorts
3:40	Follow your Lucky Star… Iberostar Hotels & Resorts in Cuba and the Dominican Republic

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1:00	The Sunshine State – Cruise or Stay – with Transat Holidays
1:40	Nassau – Quick Getaways for 3 and 4 nights with Sunquest Vacations
2:20	Air Canada Vacations –South America, Asia & South Pacific (SAS)
3:00	Inside Cuba – The 4 destinations offered by Transat Holidays & Nolitours
3:40	The Best of Barbados

Room IV

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Motorbike assassins strike

As they speed by, they attach a magnetic bomb to top Iranian nuclear scientist's car He and his driver are killed, a pedestrian wounded Defiant Iran warns: 'We will continue our (nuclear) path'

It seemed a clockwork killing.

Motorcycle riders flashed by and attached a magnetic bomb onto a car carrying a top nuclear scientist working at Iran's main uranium-enrichment facility.

By the time the blast tore apart the silver Peugeot, the motorcycle was blocks away, weaving through Tehran traffic.

Behind it, the nuclear scientist lay dead and his driver dying. A pedestrian was wounded.

It was the latest strike in what Iran calls an escalating covert war — at least the fourth targeted hit against a member of Iran's nuclear brain trust in two years.

Wednesday's blast killed Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan, 32, a chemistry expert and a director of the Natanz uranium-enrichment facility, the centrepiece of Iran's expanding program to make nuclear fuel.

"A heinous act," said Iran's Atomic Energy Organization.

But it warned defiantly: "We will continue our (nuclear) path without any doubt … Our path is irreversible."

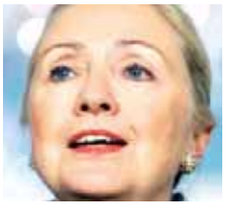
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FARS NEWS AGENCY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Magnetic-bomb aftermath: A car is removed by mobile crane in Tehran on Wednesday in this photo provided by Iran's semi-official Fars News Agency.

U.S. denies it



▶ The United States insisted it had nothing to do with Wednesday's killing.

- "I want to categorically deny any United States involvement in any kind of act of violence inside Iran," said Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, left.
- "We believe there has to be an understanding between Iran, its neighbours and the international community that finds a way forward for it to end its provocative behaviour."

Israel hints at 'bad things'

Whodunnit? Iran pointed the finger at Israel for the bomb assassination.

Israeli officials, however, hinted at covert campaigns without directly admitting involvement.

"Many bad things have been happening to Iran in the recent period," said Mickey Segal, a former director of the Israeli military's Iranian intelligence department. "Iran is in a situation where pressure on it is mounting, and the latest assassination joins the pressure."

"I don't know who settled the score with the Iranian scientist but I certainly am not shedding a tear."

ISRAEL'S CHIEF MILITARY SPOKESPERSON BRIG. GEN. YOAV MORDECHAI

Israeli military chief Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz was quoted as telling a parliamentary panel that 2012 would be a "critical year" for Iran — in part because of "things that happen to it unnaturally."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



It's a jungle up there ...

Astronomers discover solar real estate boom ◐ New planets and new stars in strangest of places

The cosmos are a crowded and crazy place as three new studies demonstrate a solar real estate boom

The more astronomers look for other worlds, the more they find.

They think planets easily outnumber stars in our galaxy and they are finding them in the strangest of places.

One of those studies shows that in our Milky Way, most stars have planets. And since there are a lot of stars in our galaxy — about 100 billion — that means a lot of planets.

"We're finding an exciting potpourri of things we didn't even think could exist," said Lisa Kaltenegger, a Harvard University astronomer. Those things include planets that mirror Star Wars' Luke Skywalker's home planet, which orbits twin suns, she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"We're awash in planets, where 17 years ago we weren't even sure there were planets."
HARVARD UNIVERSITY ASTRONOMER LISA KALTENEGGER

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Kepler 35, a newly discovered planet, circles not one but two stars.

Incoming! Space probe is falling, but where?

A falling space probe is keeping Russia — and the world — guessing.

Russian space officials hope the Phobos-Ground probe will fall into the Indian Ocean between Saturday and Monday.

But they have no guarantee of the crash site — although a large part of Canada, Scandinavia and most of Russia's ground territory appear to be spared.

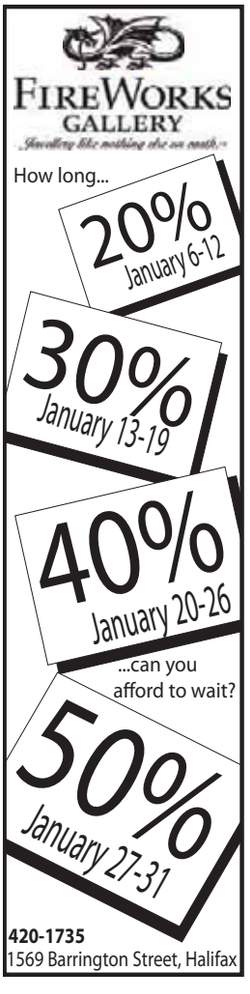
Phobos-Ground had been carrying 12 tons of highly toxic fuel.

Experts have warned that if the fuel has frozen, it could survive re-entry through the atmosphere and pose a serious threat if it falls over populated areas.

But space officials insist all the fuel will burn on re-entry some 100 kilometres above ground and pose no danger.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS







Skyscrapers portend recession?

A skyscraper building boom in China and India may be a sign of an impending economic correction, according to Barclays Capital. Barclays has mapped an "unhealthy correlation" between construction of the tallest buildings and impending financial crises. The Great Depression hit as record-breaking 40 Wall Street, the Chrysler Building and the Empire State Building were finished in New York. China is home to half of the world's skyscrapers currently under construction. India is seeing its first skyscraper building boom, with 14 under construction. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iberia cancels more flights due to strike

Spanish airline Iberia says it has cancelled 104 flights during a one-day strike by pilots protesting the company's planned new budget carrier.

The company said it has rescheduled flights for most of the estimated 10,000 passengers on long-haul, medium-haul and domestic flights affected by Wednesday's strike.

The stoppage is the fourth one-day strike by pilots union SEPLA, which claims the creation of the Iberia Express budget airline will lead to job losses. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prairies lead economic pack: Report

Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton top economic forecast for 2012

Cities in Western Canada will lead in growth and prosperity over the next couple of years, according to an outlook released Wednesday by the Conference Board of Canada.

Western cities are benefitting from resource riches and attracting migrants, boding well for housing and consumer spending. Edmonton created almost 40,000 new jobs last year alone, the think-tank says.

"In spite of global economic turmoil, high prices for agricultural products, minerals and oil are likely to continue," said Mario Lefebvre, director of municipal studies for the board. "Canada's Prairie cities will reap the benefits of this global demand for commodities."

Central Canadian cities won't do nearly as well with manufacturing continuing to struggle amid the global slowdown, and government cutbacks weighing on growth domestically.

The top 10 cities for 2012 are Saskatoon at four per cent; Calgary at 3.6 per cent; Edmonton at 3.4 per cent. At the bottom is St. John's as Newfoundland and Labrador's waning offshore oil production ripples through the economy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY

TSX	- 9.71 (12,260.94)
Dollar	- 0.22¢ ($98.11¢ US)
Oil	- 1.37¢ US ($100.87 US)
Natural gas	$2.77 US (- 17¢ US)
Gold	$1,639.60 US (+ $8.10 US)

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RVR GT model shown‡

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▶ Hostess Twinkies are shown in a studio photograph on Tuesday in New York.

MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hostess chips away at costs

Hostess Brands Inc. is filing for chapter-11 bankruptcy protection and said Wednesday it will be able to maintain routine operations thanks to a $75-million US financing commitment from a group of lenders.

Excess power with Muskrat: Report

- Muskrat Falls would bring energy via subsea cable
- Economist claims no substantial need for project

A report released today by the C.D. Howe Institute says Newfoundland and Labrador should delay its plans to develop the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project.

In the report, Memorial University economist James Feehan says the provincial government should first reform regulations that he says support excessive power consumption.

Feehan says if prices better reflect the true costs of producing electricity, then consumption will fall and the need for the Muskrat Falls project wouldn't be as great.

Nalcor Energy, the provincial Crown energy company, favours developing the Muskrat Falls site in Labrador and bringing its electricity to the island as well as the Maritime provinces via a subsea cable.

Feehan says the province should put that off until the oil-fired Holyrood, N.L., facility starts to reach the end of its life cycle.

He also says Newfoundland should proceed with a strategy to bring wind and small on-island hydro facilities onto their energy system.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obama shifts focus back to jobs

President Barack Obama said Wednesday he wants to reward companies that invest in America and eliminate tax breaks for companies that don't, and he's planning new tax proposals to do it.

A day after his Republican foes competed in the New Hampshire primary, Obama sought to grab back the spotlight and underscore his focus on the economy by convening a White House forum on how to bring back jobs from overseas.

Obama argued that business leaders have a responsibility to their country to do so. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



▶ Obama

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THINKING OF PENNING A NOVEL? READ THIS FIRST

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO



Over the years, I've grown accustomed to adoring fans complimenting my writing.

"I saw your picture in the paper," they'll say. Or: "You look familiar, do you work at my Starbucks?"

With compliments like that, it's amazing my headshot doesn't swell right out of the frame.

But years of headshot viewers acknowledging my existence have left me wanting more, and now I dream of getting a book published, so I can hear compliments like, "I saw your picture on a dust cover."

"The best approach is to write characters based on people you hate — for example, you might have a villain called Jerky MacBadhusband."

But before I can reach such wuthering heights, I have to first — and this is true of many authors — actually write a book.

So far, it's been a great success. I've writhed around in my chair, stared at the cursor, cursed, thought about my shortcomings, had a bit to drink. In other words, I'm tortured. As far as I understand it, this is an excellent first step.

I've also read a lot about how to write a book. So that I might create more competition and therefore torture myself further, here's what I've learned.

WRITING A BOOK

Choose an idea: Most coffee-shop patrons, first-year university students and other leading philosophers agree there are no new ideas. So it's OK to steal one. Ripping off one author is called an "homage." Ripping off multiple authors and mashing them together is called "finding your own voice."

Choose characters: The best approach is to write characters based on people you hate — for example, you might have a villain called Jerky MacBadhusband. To protect yourself from legal issues, make sure the character wears a hat they don't wear in real life. Then say, "The character is actually a pastiche of many people I've met in my travels."

Choose a plot: Start with a first line that grabs readers, such as, "This book is covered in anthrax spores, sucker!" If stuck for an ending, walk away for a bit. Then quit and call it "first in a series." You'll get great buzz.

Choose an agent: This person will give you added legitimacy as a writer by making you poorer.

Choose a cover: This is the step by which everyone will judge your book. I recommend you seek out glowing quotations from friends who share names with famous people. If your dentist is Milan Kudera or the kid who mows your lawn is V.S. Naipaul, you're good to go.

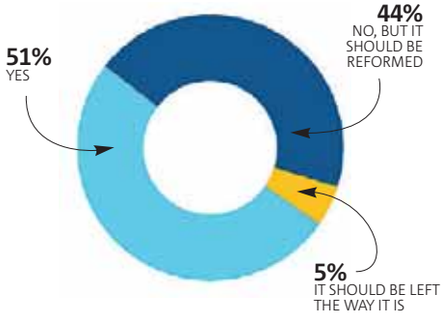
With these tips, you'll have a completed tome in no time. If it goes well, let me know. I may pay homage to it.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should the federal government abolish the Senate?



Local tweets

- **@rodcarew:** Wed in #halifax. I'm ashamed of our flip flopping council, unable to park in my own neighbourhood and taxed to death. #imlovinit
- **@MegBlumenthal:** I wish that I didn't fall asleep during #Halifax council last night. Super awesome reality TV indeed.
- **@akhodgkinson:** Thanks to all the self-assigned pace cars on the #halifax roads today. First time driving 40km/hr the entire way to school
- **@juliereyn:** first day really feeling the cold in #halifax. wow let's get winter over with asap and move into the warm months please!!
- **@nicoledawn_3:** OK so it's -200 degrees in #Halifax!...
- **@jburke06:** East coast freezing today. Holy, Halifax. Everyone in Canada should definitely be riding their pet polar bears to class/work today. Brrrr
- **@halifaxoval:** Remember #Halifax: fast skaters use inside lane, leisure skaters use outside lane. It's in red emeraoval.com above our skate times.

Daily Zoom

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Will and Kate reveal royal gifts

CONTRIBUTED



Duke and Duchess of Cambridge say thank you

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge laugh as they receive Team Canada hockey jerseys in Yellowknife on July 5.

Clarence House, the official website for the Prince of Wales, his sons and Kate, has released the list of all the gifts the royal couple collected in their cross-Canada tour with one- or two-word descriptions. Among them are a diamond-encrusted brooch and cufflinks.

This has incensed the British tabloids, who smell a cover-up in the website's describing the widely reported custom-made platinum baubles encrusted with nearly 700 tiny diamonds from Canadian mines as, simply, a "brooch" and "cufflinks."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rock solid

Celebrity jeweller Harry Winston crafted this 692-diamond set of polar bear cufflinks and brooch from diamonds from the Diavik Diamond Mine in the Northwest Territories, owned 40 per cent by the Harry Winston Diamond Corp. They were given to the royal couple during their Canadian visit.

Harry Winston donated the diamonds and the workmanship, said a spokeswoman for the Northwest Territories government.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

metro

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Correct answer to skill testing question required to claim an award. Some examples of odds are: to receive a $1,000 base award, 1 in 1; to receive a total award of $1,200, 1 in 30; to receive a total award of $10,000, 1 in 10,000; to receive a Vehicle Award, 1 in 20,000 (total awards and vehicle awards include the $1,000 base award). ** Offer applies to the purchase financing of new 2011 Buick Regal, 2011 Chevrolet Cruze, 2012 Chevrolet Cruze, Orlando, Sonic and Buick Verano and Regal models on approved credit (O.A.C) by TD Financing Services. Offer available to retail customers in Canada between January 6, 2012 and February 29, 2012. The first monthly payment will be deferred for 180 days and finance contract will be extended accordingly. No interest accrues on unpaid amounts during the deferral period. 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Freight of $1,495 excluded from purchase price of $14,599/$22,949 for 2012 Chevrolet Sonic LS 5-door (1JU48/1SA) /Orlando LT (1PK75/1SB+MH8). ‡‡ 0% purchase financing offered on approved credit by Ally Credit for 48 months on new or demonstrator 2011 Chevrolet Cruze. Rates from other lenders will vary. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: $10,000 at 0% APR, the monthly payment is $208.33 for 48 months. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $10,000. Offer is unconditionally interest-free. Freight ($1,450), license, insurance, registration, applicable taxes and fees not included. ▼Chevrolet Sonic/Orlando highway fuel consumption rating (manual transmission) based on GM testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. Competitive comparison based on 2011 Natural Resources Canada's Fuel Consumption Guide. 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2 scene

Shatner



William Shatner will star in a one-man show called Shatner's World: We Just Live in It. Previews begin Feb. 14 and it runs at the Music Box Theatre until March 4.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stage and screen legends Peterson, Plummer up for ACTRA acting prizes

From Brazil to Brooklyn

Stage to stage, city to city, Rich Aucoin continues to make waves all over the world

BACKSTAGE PASS

JENNA CONTER
METRO HALIFAX



Jet setting from Amsterdam to Reykjavik, dotting through Ontario and Quebec en route Stateside, Halifax's Rich Aucoin continues to ride the high of last year's momentum.

Though his electro-pop show has hit stages from Brazil to Brooklyn, Aucoin prides himself on making every experience unique to the fans.

"I keep updating my show by thinking about the people that always come out. I want to make sure they're seeing a different show and experiencing something new," Aucoin tells Metro by phone.

"It also keeps it fresh for me — always hearing and playing it differently."

Always changing and growing, Aucoin followed the release of his latest album, We're All Dying to Live, with his first music video, It.

Looking to draw on the spirit of his live performances, Aucoin collaborated with local director Noah Pink to craft the perfect homage.

"Rich always incorporates his favorite film clips and YouTube videos into his live performance," Pink explains of the show.

"So I thought why not try and take it a step further and put Rich into the actual films."

"It's so nice to travel and see what it's like playing in different places."
RICH AUCOIN

Since its late November release, It has been added to playlists for MuchMusic, MuchMore music, MTV 2 and Musique Plus, to name a few.

"Making the video was an amazing experience," Aucoin says.

"Half way through I got nostalgic over the fact that is was finally coming together and really tried to be in the moment."

With little time to stop and smell the roses, Aucoin will be concluding his tour by month's end.

Undoubtedly tired, he predicts, he will have absorbed new experiences and inspiration.

"It's been fun going onto different stages and reconfiguring my show for every kind of venue and every sized crowd," Aucoin reflects.

"It's interesting to see what's possible and what would be the best experience possible."

HANDOUT



▶ Halifax's Rich Aucoin is looking to build off a strong 2011.

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Is Khloe really a Kardashian?

Report claims that Kardashian patriarch had doubts she was his daughter

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



When one gazes at the Kardashian sisters (as we often do, since they are more omnipresent than Starbucks), do you ever think, "Hmmmm ... Which of these things is not like the other?"

If you, too, think Khloe Kardashian doesn't resemble her famous sisters, you aren't the only one — Kris Jenner has had to squelch rumours of her paternity for years. But now Robert Kardashian's ex-wife and widow have come forward in a Star magazine exclusive in which they both claim that the late Kardashian expressed his doubts that he was indeed the father of Khloe.

"Khloe is not his kid — he told me that after we got married," Jan Ashley, 63, the woman who married Robert after Kris Jenner, revealed to Star.

"He just kind of looked at me and said (it) like it was a matter of fact. He said, 'Well, you know that Khloe's not really a Kardashian, don't you?' And I said ... 'OK,' and that was it."

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



▶ Khloe Kardashian

But that's not all. Ellen Kardashian, 63, who married Robert in 2003 just two months before his death, says she has her doubts as well.

"Khloe brought it up all the time," Ellen told Star.

"She looked nothing like the rest. She was tall, had a different shape, light hair, curly hair. Didn't look anything like the other three children."

Whatever you do, Khloe, never, ever take a DNA test. For now, you get the best of both worlds: A cut of the Kardashian empire without having to be biologically related to them.

Celebrity tweets



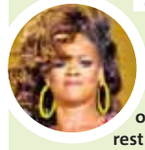
@charliesheen

today spent w/ brilliant cosmetic dentist Dr Kevin Sands! the grill now perfect for Fiat, DirectTV & Anger Managment!

@JessicaSimpson



New goal: look like @jessicaalba after baby. Job well done lady!



@rihanna

Waited all yr+Finally I have time off, time 4 rest n quiet. Suddenly all the silence is being drowned by my thoughts! No sleep

@SteveMartinToGo



The more I think about it, „Lo and behold‰ would be great in rap vernacular. Going to make some calls.

Halle Berry is off the market



Halle Berry

Halle Berry and Olivier Martinez are reportedly engaged, according to Us Weekly.

Berry, who has been married twice before, "had given up on being married, but she trusts Olivier," a source says.

"He makes her feel safe. He's a keeper."

Martinez reportedly popped the question over the holidays with an emerald-and-diamond engagement ring. The pair met in 2010 as co-stars on the film Dark Tide and started dating soon after.

Berry was previously married to baseball player David Justice and singer Eric Benet, and she has a three-year-old daughter, Nahla, with ex-boyfriend Gabriel Aubry.

METRO

Bad week gets worse for Lohan

Lindsay Lohan isn't having a great week.

First off, the IRS has reportedly obtained a lien against Lohan for $93,701.57 for failure to pay her federal income tax for 2009, according to TMZ.

And now the troubled actress is being sued by a paparazzo who claims he was injured while being struck by Lohan's car while she was leaving a club in 2010, according to Hollyscoop.

Lohan wasn't driving the car, but Balyan's lawyer, Neil Steiner, claims she's still at fault because the driver was operating under her instruction.

Steiner says they tried to settle with Lohan's insurance company, which made "an insignificant offer."

METRO

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A fierce start to the new year

Wildlife-inspired prints have become a second skin to trend trackers who can't get enough of their zebra minis and leopard coats We've picked out our favourite ferocious accessories to complement the most somber of outfits

KARL-EDWIN GUERRE



▶ Fashion blogger Leandra Medine wearing just the right amount of leopard in New York.



1 HOUSE OF HARLOW
1960 cross body clutch
$225, hoh1960.com

2 WINTER KATE
calf-hair shoes, $188,
my-wardrobe.com

3 CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN
'Alex' lion-paw pumps
$4,000, christianlouboutin.fr

4 MULBERRY
fox gloves
$180, mulberry.com

5 UNDERGROUND
suede double creepers, $170,
asos.com

6 EMMA FRANKLIN
gold 'Triceratops' ring, $695,
emmafranklin.net

7 YUNUS AND ELIZA
'claw drop' necklace, $770,
yunus-eliza.co.uk



ROMINA McGUINNESS

3 life

Beauty pick

Winter skin saver
If you haven't done so yet, now would be the time to ramp up your winter moisturizers.
KENYA HUNT



BODY
Biotherm Baume Corps Oil Therapy, $38, biotherm.com

Clothing maker Liz Claiborne changing name to Fifth & Pacific after sale of brand

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CHARLES THE BUTLER



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Dear Charles the butler, You often mention to use front-loading washing machine for certain laundry items such as woollens and advise against top loading due to possible damage from the agitator. I assume that top loading HE machines would also be safe since they do not have an agitator? Thanks, Marc

Hello Marc!

I think your assumption is a good one however I have never personally used the top loader HE so I have no personal experience.

My advice would be proceed with caution, and experiment with items that should they be damaged you won't be devastated.

I promise to try and get some information on this, but so far I'm not having much luck. If any readers have any experiences with this I would love to hear from you! More to follow Marc, as soon as I can.

Also, I have received many emails from readers correcting me on a small error I made.

In a recent article about stain removal I erred when I said that club soda contains sugar. You are all correct that club soda does not contain sugar, however tonic water does contain sugar. This was my confusion and I am sorry for my mistake.

Finally I wanted to thank my readers for writing in to tell me this.

I love getting all of your emails as it makes me feel like we are having a dialogue between us, which is most enjoyable.

Thank you all for being so gracious in how you pointed out my error.

HAVE A QUESTION? SEND AN EMAIL TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK



▶ Beware the washing machine's agitator when it comes to delicates.

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A look ahead to salad days

While hearty stews simmer on the stove, we're anticipating the refreshing salads of spring Get in the mood with Toasted Quinoa & Asparagus Salad

NEWS CANADA



The recipe serves six.

While often seen as a morning food, grapefruits are finding new life away from the breakfast table. With some creativity, this healthy fruit can add zest to lunches and dinners. Try adding sliced Florida grapefruit to a salad or stir-fry.

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
- 4 green onions, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup (250 mL) quinoa, rinsed
- 2 cups (500 mL) Florida orange juice
- 1 cup (250 mL) chopped fresh asparagus
- 1 small orange bell pepper, chopped
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) fresh basil
- Salt and black pepper

Another way to include fruit into your afternoon and evening recipes is to use Florida orange juice, which finds new life in tangy salad dressing or in marinades for chicken or fish. Florida orange juice can also be used in tandem with other nutrition-rich foods to create the ultimate healthy meal.

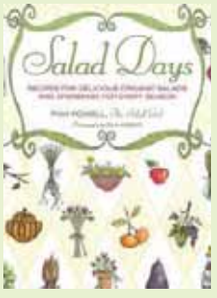
Quinoa, a gluten-free grain that is high in magnesium, is landing on healthiest food lists everywhere. This quinoa and asparagus salad can be topped with meat or additional veggies.

Toasted Quinoa and Asparagus Salad Preparation:

1. In nonstick skillet heat oil over medium heat and cook onions and garlic 3 mins. or until softened and fragrant. Add quinoa and toast, stirring for 3 mins. or until fragrant and beginning to pop. Add orange juice and bring to boil. Cover and reduce heat to low; simmer 15 mins.
2. Stir in asparagus and pepper; cover and cook 10 mins or until liquid is absorbed. Remove from heat; let stand 5 mins. Using fork, fluff quinoa and place in large bowl. Let cool slightly and stir in basil. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

NEWS CANADA/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR & A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA).

Weekly Cookbook



Salad Days: Recipes for Delicious Organic Salads and Dressings for Every Season by Pam Powell offers 60 colour photos, quaint illustrations, a salad basics chapter, and a resource guide to complement a fantastic collection of salad and dressing recipes.

Recipes include: Apple and Roasted Beet Salad with Fruit, Nuts, Gorgonzola, and Watercress; Pecan-Crusted Goat Cheese and Micro Greens with Crisp Apple Maple-Brushed Crostini; and more.







4 sports

More sports



TORY FASSETT CONTINUED TO SHINE AS THE SAINT MARY'S HUSKIES MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM WON ITS THIRD STRAIGHT GAME ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT, DEFEATING THE ACADIA AXEMEN 70-61 IN WOLFVILLE. THE SECOND-YEAR GUARD, SECOND IN THE NATION IN SCORING, HAD A TEAM-HIGH 21 POINTS AS SAINT MARY'S IMPROVED TO 5-5. ON THE WOMEN'S SIDE, FIRST-PLACE SAINT MARY'S (8-2) FELL 88-65 TO THIRD-PLACE ACADIA (6-1).

Scan code for more sports.

Brendan Duke adds depth and relative youth to Mooseheads' defence corps
Blue-liner has goal, three assists and a minus-10 rating in 54 career QMJHL games

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶ New Mooseheads defenceman Brendan Duke takes part in practice at the Metro Centre on Tuesday afternoon.

Mooseheads Reunite championship pair



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

Halifax Mooseheads fans take note: The last time Brendan Duke and Nathan MacKinnon wore the same jersey, they won a championship together.

That was four years ago with the Cole Harbour Wings at the Atlantic bantam AAA championships in Truro, when MacKinnon was a high-scoring 12-year-old under-ager and Duke a 14-year-old who ended up winning the tournament's top defenceman award.

Reunited with their hometown Halifax Mooseheads last week when Duke arrived via trade from the Quebec Remparts, that success is something they'd love to experience again.

"It's really exciting to be back home," said Duke, now 18. "It seems like a great bunch of guys and I'm happy to be here."

Duke, who arrived in a trade for 19-year-old winger Gabriel Desjardins and a swap of five draft choices, is a former second-round pick of the Remparts. He was the Nova Scotia Major Midget Hockey League's top defenceman in 2010 before cracking the Remparts roster last season.

But since then, Duke has spent as much time on the injured list as he has on the ice, limited to just 53 games with the Remparts because of an ongoing shoulder problem that he says is now 100 per cent.

"It was tough ... Being out with an injury and watching your team, it's never easy," Duke said. "I had lots of stretching, lots of physio and stuff like that, so it's ready and I don't get injured again."

Three of the Mooseheads' top defenceman this season — Konrad Abeltshauser, Sawyer Hannay and Steve Gillard — are 19 years old and not guaranteed to be back as overagers. Duke's acquisition gives the organization much-needed defensive depth for next season.

For what it's worth, the six-foot 205-pounder made a big impression on his new — and old — teammate in his Mooseheads debut last Saturday.

"He played great," MacKinnon said. "He controlled the puck really well and was really calm. It's nice to have a former teammate on my team, and he's a great guy and a great leader. We're excited to have him."

Moose schedule

The Mooseheads, sixth overall in the QMJHL with a 24-13-4 record, host the 14th-place Drummondville Voltigeurs (17-21-5) on Thursday at 7 p.m. and the ninth-place Chicoutimi Sagueneens (20-14-8) on Friday at 8 p.m.

▶ **Friday's game** is an hour later because it will be nationally televised on Sportsnet.

Frk lands at 25 in NHL draft rankings

Halifax Mooseheads winger Martin Frk has been ranked 25th among North American skaters for June's NHL entry draft by Central Scouting.

Frk, who has been limited to just nine games this season because of a concussion, has two goals and an assist since returning to the lineup in early December.

Russians Nail Yakupov of the OHL's Sarnia Sting and Mikhail Grigorenko of the QMJHL's Quebec Remparts are ranked 1-2.

Also earning spots in the ranking are Andrew Ryan (64th) and Luca Ciampini (196th).

Two Halifax natives cracked the list: Liam O'Brien of the Rouyn-Noranda Huskies sits at No. 102 while Taylor Burke of the Gatineau Olympiques is No. 130.

MATTHEW WUEST

Canadian skier Burke in coma

Freestyle standout was to have surgery in Utah after Tuesday crash

NATHAN BILOW/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE



Canadian freestyle skier Sarah Burke remained in an induced coma after suffering a head injury in a crash while training on a superpipe, officials said Wednesday.

The nature of Burke's injuries have not been disclosed.

In a statement released by the Canadian Freestyle Ski Association, a doctor at the University of Utah hospital said Burke "sustained serious injuries and remains intubated and sedated in critical condition."

Chris Nelson, assistant vice-president for public affairs at the hospital, said Burke was having surgery Wednesday afternoon.

Dr. Robert Foxford, the Canadian Freestyle Ski Association team doctor, said he has received little information from the medical officials treating Burke.

"That would be standard with people with a significant head injury, that the brain is put to rest, there is an induced coma, and they give them medication to make sure there's almost no brain activity," he said in a conference call.

Burke's husband, Rory Bushfield, and members of her family were with her. But they appeared to be following standard procedures for treatment of serious head injuries.

Burke is a halfpipe pioneer who lobbied tirelessly to get her sport included in the Olympics. Halfpipe skiing will debut at the 2014 Games in Sochi, Russia.

She was airlifted from Park City, Utah, to Salt Lake City after crashing at the end of a training run Tuesday in advance of the Winter X Games in Aspen, Colo.

"Sarah is a very strong young woman and she will most certainly fight to recover."
SARAH BURKE'S HUSBAND RORY BUSHFIELD IN A STATEMENT

The native of Barrie, Ont., who grew up in nearby Midland before moving to Squamish, B.C., was training with a private group at the time of the accident.

"We know that she had landed a trick in the pipe and had landed at the bottom of the pipe and kind of hit on her feet, so she landed, and then bounced onto her feet, head kind of thing," head of the ski association Peter Judge, said in an interview Tuesday.

"Apparently, from what we heard, it didn't look like it was that kind of severe a fall, but obviously she must have just hit in the right way." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crosby joins Pens on road, set to start skating

Sidney Crosby is taking the first step in another return to the NHL.

Pittsburgh Penguins coach Dan Bylsma says Crosby was set to join the team for Wednesday's game against the Capitals in Washington.

He was in the press box wearing a jacket and tie during the game.

Bylsma said Crosby will skate on his own during the three-game road trip and that there is no timetable for his return.

Crosby missed nearly 11 months of action because of a concussion before returning in November.

The 24-year-old superstar last played on Dec. 5 against Boston and the Penguins said at the time he was dealing with concussion-related problems.

The news comes as the injury-riddled Penguins continue to slide down the Eastern Conference standings. After Wednesday night's 1-0 loss, the Pens have dropped six straight and sit in ninth place with 46 points after 41 games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Miscellaneous

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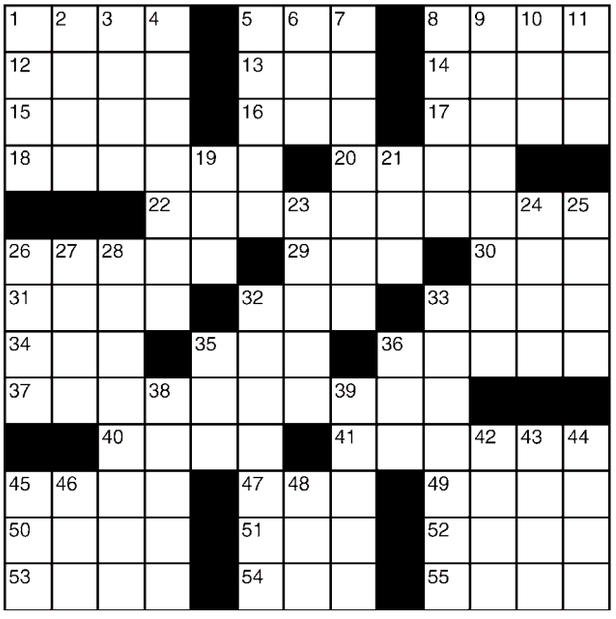
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Crossword



Across

1 Volcanic spillage
5 Solo of "Star Wars"
8 Bang the door loudly
12 Troop group
13 Inseparable
14 Caffeine-rich nut
15 Swag
16 Twitch
17 Terrible guy?
18 Loosen a sneaker
20 Dandling locale
22 One way to quit
26 Ungainly
29 Cage piece
30 Born
31 Raw minerals
32 "See ya"
33 TV chef Cat
34 Have a bug
35 "Ulalume" writer
36 Croc's cousin
37 Speak frankly
40 Transaction
41 Nerve tissue cell
45 Pic you can click
47 Conk out
49 Unaccompanied
50 Beach matter
51 Geological period
52 Right angles
53 Sandwich cookie
54 Roulette bet
55 Do in

Down

1 Humdinger
2 Any time now
3 String instrument
4 Assaults
5 "Monopoly" building
6 Singer DiFranco
7 Cravat
8 Lindsey Vonn, for one
9 Entwined symbol of affection
10 — carte
11 Fellow
19 Demure
21 Gist
23 Laundromat machine
24 Architect Saarinen
25 Calendar quota
26 Capricorn
27 Met melody
28 "Bravo!"
32 Colorado city
33 Range horses
35 Sch. org.
36 "Gosh!"
38 Japanese fencing
39 Work dough
42 Roster
43 — podrida
44 Inquisi-tive
45 Equal (Pref.)
46 Automobile
48 Rage

▶ Yesterday's answer



Sudoku

7	2						1	5
		3	8		5	2		
5								9
		1	9		7	6		
6								1
		7	4		1	5		
3								6
		9	2		8	7		
2	4						3	8

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

1	2	8	9	4	6	7	5	3
9	4	5	7	3	8	1	6	2
6	3	7	1	2	5	9	4	8
7	9	2	8	1	4	6	3	5
3	5	4	6	7	2	8	9	1
8	6	1	5	9	3	4	2	7
2	8	9	4	5	1	3	7	6
4	1	3	2	6	7	5	8	9
5	7	6	3	8	9	2	1	4

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

V.T. Love is quite warm sensing, why are you saying it's complicated? I want to know something still confused. Let's meet some time. **LOST**

r. mendgen
I love you so much that you are engraved into my existence.When im with you i bask in the essence of who you are.Your love is like the sun,it wraps around me engulfing me in warmth.Happy valentines **RICARDO C**

treasure, You put up this strong manly exterior, but your eyes show me your in a lot of pain. You speak, but your not speaking with your heart. So next time when you see me take off your disgusie and stop depriving yourself and your heart from what it deserves and speak 2 me from the heart. You too deserve to be happy! P.S I never thought of you as a quitter, more as a fighter.... **ME**

Today 2°/-3° 1-3cm of snow 90%
Friday 8°/-3° Rain 60%
Your #1 weather forecast now available in HD. Check your local listings for details. The Weather Network | HD
TWN incorporates MSC data

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
People come to you with their problems all the time. But at some stage today, you'll have to make it clear that enough is enough.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
Ignore work problems until the Sun crosses the career angle of your chart on the Jan. 20.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
The Sun in Capricorn at this time of year tends to make life look gray. You have plenty to look forward to.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22
Go out and enjoy yourself today but watch how much you spend and who you spend it on.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
You may be spontaneous by nature but time spent planning today will not be time wasted.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
Look for compromise solutions today. That might not be easy when everyone else seems to be looking for reasons to argue.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
No matter how secure you may feel in your current situation, you can sense that changes are coming.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Don't let anyone get away with saying things about you that are not true today. Stand up for yourself.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Make a point of telling a friend how much he or she means to you.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Anyone who thinks you'll give up easily will learn the hard way today that Capricorns aren't quitters.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Just over a week from now, the Sun will move into your birth sign and a new solar year will begin. Conserve your energy, you'll need it.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Someone you meet may be fun to be with but don't be foolish and trust him or her with personal information. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

KEYSTONE/URS FLUEELER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MARTIN MEISSNER/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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STOCK#12RC7967

now 28,977 was 41,990

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2012 Ram 1500 ST Quad Cab 4X4

STOCK#12RQ7963

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was $62,090 now $49,564

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